

The CALFED Program and Complementary Actions

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The actions described in the CALFED Program will be implemented in a solution area that includes most of the state. Individual CALFED agencies have responsibilities and authorities both within and outside the CALFED solution area. Within the defined CALFED solution area, individual CALFED agencies will implement actions that are part of CALFED's preferred program alternative as well as actions that are not part of the CALFED Program. Many of these actions will be complementary to the CALFED Program, and will help to achieve CALFED goals and objectives. Many of these complementary actions are not included in the CALFED Program because they were already underway when the CALFED effort was started in 1995. In these cases, CALFED programmatic actions have been designed to complement or supplement these existing actions and programs. Other actions will continue to be developed by individual CALFED agencies over time. These new actions and programs will be outside the programmatic analysis of impacts that CALFED has prepared.

The CALFED Record of Decision (ROD) is intended to reflect a final selection of a long-term plan to fix the Bay-Delta (Preferred Program Alternative), describe a strategy for implementing the plan and identify complementary actions the CALFED agencies seek to pursue. By certifying the ROD the CALFED agencies do not intend to prevent implementation of projects not expressly evaluated in the CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR. Complementary actions which are identified in the June 9, 2000 Framework for Action, as well as specific implementation actions will require additional environmental review.

The following is a list of complementary actions which are identified in the June 9, 2000 Framework for Action. Depending on how these projects are defined, and the specific actions which are identified, all or portions of these projects may be covered by the CALFED programmatic analysis. In addition, as projects which are currently identified as covered by the CALFED programmatic analysis undergo further development and refinement portions of those projects may fall outside of the analysis contained in the Programmatic EIS/EIR and require additional programmatic environmental review.

Sacramento/San Joaquin River Comprehensive Study. The Comprehensive Study will develop master plans that will increase flood protection and improve the ecosystem on major rivers and tributaries in the Central Valley. The Comprehensive Study is not yet completed so no actions have been selected for implementation. However, several CALFED actions stand out as possibilities for coordinated implementation to meet multiple objectives. These include completion of a Sacramento River meander corridor, restoration of flood plain processes on Deer Creek (an east side tributary that enters the Sacramento river near Corning) and floodplain restoration on the lower San Joaquin River.

Facilitation of Water Transfers. In addition to CALFED actions related to water transfers, one important complementary action will be an effort to remove a potential barrier to water transfers. CALFED agencies recognize that a potential barrier to an effective water transfer market is the lack of incentive for some individual landowners to implement agricultural water conservation technologies as a result of water savings frequently accruing to the irrigation district or water supply agency, not to the landowner. In conjunction with USBR and SWRCB, DWR will develop and support proposals that work within California's existing system of water rights to remove this disincentive where needed. DWR will work with water supply agencies and end users to find consensus solutions.

San Luis Bypass. One important complementary action in the San Francisco Bay Area is a bypass canal to the San Felipe Unit at the San Luis Reservoir. When operated in conjunction with local storage, this canal would allow Santa Clara Valley Water District to receive water directly from the Delta pumping facilities, thereby avoiding water quality problems associated with the "low point" water levels in San Luis Reservoir.

Bay Area Blending/Exchange A programmatic action with the potential to improve water quality for many urban users is a Bay Area Blending/Exchange project. This project will evaluate a range of potential changes to existing infrastructure and institutional arrangements to encourage a regional approach to water supply operations. Depending on specific local actions selected, a Bay Area Blending/Exchange project might or might not be able to tier off of CALFED's Programmatic EIS/EIR.

Land Retirement. A complementary action in the Westside San Joaquin Valley will be voluntary land retirement programs carried out by USBR as part of the CVPIA.

Regional Exchanges. Another complementary action would facilitate water quality exchanges and similar programs to make high quality Sierra water in the eastern San Joaquin Valley available to urban Southern California interests. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Friant Water Users Authority and its member agencies have commenced preliminary discussions to accomplish these objectives, as well as improving water supply reliability for the agricultural districts. CALFED will work to assure that these efforts are consistent with overall programs to restore the upper San Joaquin River and maintain water quality for downstream users.

Governor's Drought Contingency Plan. Over the next several years critical water shortages may occur that severely impact the health, welfare and economy of California. To avoid such serious impacts, the Governor will convene a panel for the purpose of developing a contingency plan to reduce the impacts of critical water shortages. The plan will identify available resources and recommend funding.